

THE "DEATH WATCH."

A Household Pest Which Makes Uncanny

Who has not heard the "death watch?" Many a person who has happened to be awake in the stillness of the night has listened to the tick, tick, tick for half a dozen times or more in succession as regular and as natural as the ticking of a watch. Many have regarded the sound with superstitious awe and dread, because everything about it is so mysterious.

The name, death watch, is derived in this way, as a person sitting up with the sick is more apt to hear such sounds, and when they were heard at such times, it was considered an ill omen to the sick one. Some intrepid persons dared to brave this messenger of death, and found, instead of the supposed spirit, a guileless, timid little insect. However, the name is still retained, and no doubt, many still wonder what makes that peculiar sound and why it is made.

The little beetle, called anobium, one species of which is represented in Fig. 1, is our most common "death tick." It is only about one-eighth of an inch in length as can be seen by the line at the side of the beetle.

Fig. 1. This beetle, how this ticking sound is produced and what for is very interesting. I can do no better than quote one who saw the operation. He says: "This little beetle produces the loud ticking sound by raising itself upon its legs as high as it can, and then striking the head and under part of the thorax against the substance upon which it is standing. It generally does so six times in rapid succession; and it always chooses a substance which produces the most sound. It is evidently a call note from one individual to another, as you very rarely hear one rap without its being immediately answered by another."

Being so small and of a wood color they are quite difficult to find; and then they are as still and sly as a mouse, if the slightest movement is made near them. They are injurious in that they bore in wood, and in this way they sometimes do considerable injury to the paper of old books. In such cases they may be easily exterminated by dusting with pyrethrum.—Prof. G. C. Davis, in Farm, Field and Stockman.

Another insect, illustrated in Fig. 2, also gives this peculiar ticking sound. Although so small that one can hardly see the little white thing with the naked eye, yet it produces a sound that is audible for a long distance.

They are quite common amongst old rubbish and around old library books, and are given the common name of "book louse." Their food comes from still smaller insects or from decaying vegetable matter, and in this way they sometimes do considerable injury to the paper of old books. In such cases they may be easily exterminated by dusting with pyrethrum.—Prof. G. C. Davis, in Farm, Field and Stockman.

DOMESTIC LESSONS.

Mothers should begin them when their daughters are quite young.

There are the studies that must not be interrupted—social exchanges to be daily made; a certain amount of sewing and reading to be accomplished; out-of-door life in abundance, and enough sleep to insure health to be secured. The most efficient, ambitious mother is often necessarily absorbed with other interests than adapting her spare moments to the intervals of her daughter's leisure; and the completion of house duties is imperative, and cannot wait for the hand of a novice.

How would it do to begin the house-keeping lessons when the daughters are five and six? Teach them to handle their toys nicely, and to arrange their play houses conveniently for dollie's comfort. As they get older, show them how to dust and how to sew, using doll's patterns; and, when the study begins to grow longer, let them, once or twice a week, do some genuine house work, like the thorough sweeping of their own room; or making a certain kind of bread; the coffee for breakfast; from time to time a staple dish—desserts will easily follow. During vacation, (with lots of fun in between) let them make out the programme of two or three days' work, submitted the day before to the mother, to be carried through by them, with the exception of emergencies.

Let them contribute a share in the hospitalities of their home. Who is a more attractive hostess than the accomplished daughter, gracefully and intelligently entertaining guests in the home of her parents? And how easily and naturally all her growing duties will fall into line, in the home that follows that of her maintenance.—L. M. Trivett, in Rural New Yorker.

The Causes of Nightmares.

Nightmare is a condition of the nervous system in which the cerebrum is active, but there is no control of the lower part of the brain which presides over muscular action. A person can think and feel, but he cannot move. It seems to be a sort of temporary paralysis of the muscles of motion. It is sometimes caused by overheating the spinal cord—leather beds are not entirely out of fashion yet—and it is also caused by a pressure of a full stomach upon the aorta. A person should not go to bed immediately after eating a hearty meal; if he does, nightmare may be one of the results.—Dr. J. H. Kellogg.

How to Maintain Robust Health.

First, Sleep.—Give yourself the necessary amount of sleep, from five to eight hours. Avoid feather beds. Sleep in a garment not worn during the day. To maintain robust health sleep with a person as healthful as yourself or no one. Second, Exercise.—Not violent, but sufficient to produce a gentle perspiration, should be had each day in the open air.

AN ORIGINAL RECIPE.

I do not think that I am very vain, but this I do assert, and will maintain, that my recipe for nice brown bread (The product of a proudly scheming head) is just the nicest that I ever ate. And with baked beans might grace a fairy's fete. Take equal quantities you must, of wheat, Cornmeal, and Graham flour (no weatons feast). Two eggs, and melted butter, one-half cup of pure, sweet milk, a pint. (Don't drink milk. Though tempted sore.) Moisten? Yes, you'll need.

A full half cup, and after that, indeed, A teaspoon saleratus, and beside, Another teaspoon salt. Then, for a guide, In mere consistency why let it be Like cake, so all who eat it will agree That it is praiseworthy with justice sing.

—C. H. Thayer, in Good Housekeeping.

HANDSOME DOLLIES.

Dainty Trifles Which Add to the Attraction of the Dinner Table.

To the housekeepers who have time and means to add other attractions to their tables than the snowy linen all may have, nothing can be more dainty and fresh than the new center pieces and dollies, in which some flower composes the entire dolly, and forms the border of the center piece.

The design given is just one-third the size of original, and shows a white rose dolly, embroidered in white silk on white damask.

The edge of outer leaves is cut out and worked in button-hole stitch; then the outlines of center leaves are done in stem-stitch, long-and-short-stitch and satin-stitch, as shown in illustration. The veins are done in stem-stitch with delicate pink silk.

The flowers for border of center-piece may be used the same size as the dolly, in which case eight will make border, one in each corner, and one in center of each side, two sides being made longer by leaving a small space the width of one leaf, between the side flowers and corner, working the same as edge of leaves. A round centerpiece edged with roses of the size given in the illustration would be pretty.

A pansy makes a simple design. While daffodils worked in shaded yellow silk on white make a very rich pattern. Any of these designs may be followed in colored silks on colored damask, if preferred.

A beautiful center-piece may be done on bolting silk, by cutting out and painting pansies for border in natural colors and sizes, and fastening them on with invisible stitches. Or the edges may be cut to represent leaves, as in the illustration, and then the flowers painted. These same designs make beautiful toilet sets, or lamp or vase mats.

A pretty lamp mat is made by painting the pansy border on the colored chamois, so much the style just now. Table covers and tops of pin cushions are also made of this colored chamois. In all these it will be found easier to paint the border first, then cut the edges away, making a pretty colored scalloped-edge.—Eva Evans, in House-keeper.

MEDICI COLLAR FICHU.

A Handsome and Popular Accessory to the Toilet.

A handsome finish for any nice dress to be worn in the house. It is made of cream-white silk ruffled in a plaiting to stand up around the neck at the back, and folded to form V-shaped revers inside a pointed shawl collar of black silk upon which black thread lace about four inches wide is gathered in a ruffle. Butterfly bows of black ribbon at each side of the neck-plaiting and at the end of the fichu-collar, which reaches the waist, complete this accessory to the toilet, which can be made in other colors and in white lace, as well as in those described.—Demorest's Family Magazine.

The Proper Care of Brooms.

The rapidity with which brooms ordinarily wear out is surprising, says Harper's Bazar. This is partly due to leaving the broom standing on its brush end when not in use, but more to carelessness in handling. A piece of strong cloth, or, better yet, of old woven under-flannel or stockinet, should be drawn over the handle and down below the place where the broom splints are stitched. A few stitches with strong cotton yarn should fasten this cover both at its lower edge and gather and fasten it around the handle, sewing the stitches through and through. This cover holds the broom splints together, and prevents their breaking out and the tearing off of the banding of a broom which repeated striking against doors and mop-boards and reaching under heavy pieces of furniture does.

A WANING FAD.

An Old Furniture Man Who Finds His Business Played Out.

There is a local collector who at one time, dating three or four years back, used to do a thriving business by collecting in his travels ancient pieces of furniture. He owns his occupation is about done. He didn't fancy the loss of a revenue, and being a sensible kind of fellow made it his business to find out the root of the cause of the shrunken revenue. He thinks he was successful and got hold of the root, but it was unavailable to cause any growth of his business plant, however well-natured. He talks about it in this way: "Beginning about ten years back the craze for following up auctions and buying old furniture set in in the country. In the cities it dated away back of that. The first symptom of the disease was old clocks, and I find, looking back over my books, I've sold twenty-two in the last ten years. Some of them were fair looking and some were not. You see the way it generally is, an old family about three generations back that had the wit to make enough money to buy handsome, costly ones, transmits the same capacity to its descendants, and they are well able to keep any old relic they have, money being no temptation to them to sell. It's generally the ancestral piece, the going around and after other people's old things. Well, after clocks chairs set in, and they had it hard; all broke out with chairs; couldn't sleep nights; fiddle-back chairs mostly. I've sold them as high as \$10 a time. I acted as middle-man at one time, used to buy them in the broken-down stage and sell them to a woman in the city. She sliced them up and sold them for \$10; said they came right from dear old grandma's dome. Then old writing-desks caught on. When you come to look at it, there's more sense in buying an old desk than in any other old piece, for modern builders have made not so much improvement up to date in these goods. You see, in old times there were no safes used in houses to give secure keeping to the law and family documents, so it was necessary to have some receptacle for them. An old desk of carved maple, with drawers, which lots of little pigeonholes, stylocks and drawer-room is really a valuable piece of furniture."

"About the time desks took hold, buffets got in gear. I never saw but one I could care for. Cape Cod is a splendid place to pick up fine antique furniture. I saw this buffet there, genuine cherry, no veneering, wine color with age, and carved to fit the queen's taste. It was eight feet broad, clawlegged, swell front, and, I believe, brought from Italy by some old salt who sailed from Cape. I bought it and left it there until some time later came. A man from New York saw it. He was a gentleman, that fellow was. He said he'd been American minister at Paris, and he scarcely ever saw a better one in any of the old palaces there. He gave me \$75 for it, and had it done over in New York. Then it was shipped to his place where he lived some miles at Mount Vernon, and he said when I saw him again that it became famous. That man's home was filled with heirlooms in silver, wood, fabrics, and pictures, but one night, when the family was in New York, it caught fire and the whole valuable collection, which could never be replaced, was burned. And the most aggravating thing about it was that the insurance on the contents of the house expired that very day. Complete loss. If that wasn't impious, I dunno."

"Owners of houses out in the country and the lovers in provincial cities are now the only people who can be roped in for old furniture and other antiques. The styles gave out among the stylish. You may have read of the sale in New York City a short time ago of Millionaire Allen Thorndike Rice's valuables—everything that he left—goods enough to furnish ten hotels, which reporters say. Well, you can guess how much the crowd of very fashionable people care about old furniture, for they were sold for merely nothing. A large sideboard of solid mahogany, made in Paris, sold for \$35. Another piece of furniture which would have been jumped at in a one-horse city by a Sheraton desk, very old, perfectly preserved, the woodwork and carving being the most expensive, sold for \$20 after lots of urging by the auctioneer. Ordinary mahogany desks, like those people will pay \$30 or \$40 for before they are done over, sold for \$8 and \$10. Some solid mahogany chairs, very antique, made in Paris by one of the swell decorators of long ago, sold at \$14 each, though it was not denied that they cost \$50 each at the lowest estimate. Brass and iron of all the old and expensive shapes sold at from \$5 to \$10 a set. People who are up with the time have got done with such old stuff; they don't want to give it house room. But when it came to old leathers, damasks, brocades, or old engravings and prints, such as Fortuny's, Simone's and Rosse's works, those New York swells grabbed them up in a moment at a good price. They are now what makes a house the thing, because now the modern furniture, which is copied from the elegant antique styles, is made so superb wealthy people and cultivated people buy it, and if they have been guilty of buying somebody else's old trash that was awkward in style and never fine in makeup, they put it out of sight and put in its place the modern manufactures."

"That's what has spoiled my money-making as a collector of old furniture. Of course there are some families who have been for three or four generations people of wealth, and they may have some really valuable old things, and they utilize them and like them for sentimental form and the old scenes and places, that they'd have quite a time going round looking up the old chairs, desks, sideboards, and like that, and they use them where they find them the new owners must have a big ghostly crowd around most of the time. No, sir," added the philosopher, "ex-dier in old furniture, 'old furniture' which has belonged to somebody else, and old furniture anyway is a fad of the past. The people who know what's the fun don't buy or use it." Providence (R. I.) Journal.

Coughing in Church.

New York Times.

She had one of those sweet, angelic faces, with great prayerful gray eyes, and no one would think that there was anything of the joker about her. She sat in the front pew in one of the fashionable up town churches at one of the Lenten services. Her pretty head was bowed over her prayer book. All was as quiet as a tomb in church, and the silence seemed to impress her. Suddenly she looked up, and her great gray eyes quickly surveyed the crowd of silent worshippers. Then just the faintest suggestion of a laugh crept into the gray eyes and she coughed two or three times, little coughs. Then the head went down over the prayer book again and the smile on her face broadened as her neighbor coughed, and the neighbor was taken up here and there and everywhere until the once silent tabernacle had the sounds peculiar to the consumptive ward in a big hospital.

As the sweet young lady with the big eyes came out of church she was heard to say to her escort: "Now you see that coughing in church is largely a matter of habit. One person coughs and the rest of the congregation follows suit. I know it was very wicked of me, but when I looked up and noticed how silent everybody was I had to try the experiment of seeing how many people would cough if I did. It was such fun."

The Silver Situation.

From the Chicago Tribune.

The situation as gathered from leading democrats who have drifted into Washington lately is that a large section of Mr. Cleveland's supporters in the east will not make more than a nominal resistance to free coinage legislation next winter. The idea is to get the question out of politics in advance of the presidential nomination by the passage of a free coinage bill over President Harrison's veto.

The probability of a two-thirds vote in both branches to override a veto is much greater than most persons suppose. In the senate the real test will be three democratic senators who stood out. These were Gray, McPherson and Wilson of Maryland. McPherson has since intimated that he has experienced a change of heart, while Wilson is likely to be succeeded by a free coinage. Vilas of Wisconsin and Brice of Ohio are counted on to fill the gap, but too much dependence cannot be placed in them. No one pretends to know where Senator John M. Palmer will flop. It is certain that numerically the free coinage members of the senate will be larger next winter. In the house the free coinage faction will be swelled tremendously. At the last session on the final test just six democratic members were found who could be depended on to hold out. The responsibility for legislation will add to the number in the next house, yet the democrats with their overwhelming majority will present an almost solid front.

A Splendid Officer.

The Jefferson City correspondent of the Clinton Democrat pays the former editor of the INTELLIGENCER the following compliment:

"Secretary Leasure is of all men the right man in the right place. He is one of those wonderful combinations of thorough business and rugged and unswerving honesty, with inexhaustible patience that makes an officer quick to serve and eager to accommodate. He has such a splendid grasp upon the business of his office that it makes but little difference how much additional work the legislature imposes upon him, he always knows everything is attended to at the right time and in the right way. It is the universal sentiment that he must consent to be his own successor."

A Siamese Coin.

Oscar Anderson, of Lexington, the popular drummer for the St. Louis Paper Co., showed us last Friday, a Siamese coin of the value of 60 cents, given him by Col. Jake Childs, returned minister to Siam. It was a very odd looking coin. It looked like a large bullet, such as boys use for slippers on fish lines, and looked like it had received four blows from a heavy hammer drawing one side together and leaving the other part round or in its natural form. It had several letters stamped upon it.—Holted Enterprise.

Still Another Swindle.

Look out for another swindle. This time it is a canvasser pretending to be securing dates for a soldiers' history. The questions asked are answered cheerfully by all, and correctly as possible. After the information has been written out, the unsuspecting informant is requested to sign it, being assured that it is only wanted as authority for publishing. After a few days those interviewed are surprised to find a contract to take a book.

J. C. Young has a new and very neat double-seated pleasure wagon, in oak finish.

PRICE'S Cream Baking Powder.
A Pure Cream of Tartar Powder. Superior to every other known. Used in Millions of Homes—40 Years the Standard. Delicious Cake and Pastry, Light Flaky Biscuits, Griddle Cakes, Palatable and Wholesome. No other baking powder does such work.

Central Notes.

Miss Bryant spent Sunday and Monday with friends in Kansas City.

Miss Mazee McGrew called on Miss Frank Moore Monday afternoon.

Mrs. J. P. Gordon called on Miss Blanche Harper at the college one day this week.

Rev. Dr. Erwin, president of Lindenwood college, St. Charles, Mo., was a visitor at Central Thursday.

Miss Susie Grinter is at her home in Perry, Kas., this week, being detained there by the serious illness of her father.

Misses Nettie, Florence and Lizzie Clemmens, and Jennie White, visited home-folks last Saturday; so also Miss Lark Jefferson.

Rev. W. J. Carpenter comes up quite often to play tennis and croquet with the teachers and girls. He displays in playing something of the same energy he does in preaching. He is always a welcome visitor at our college.

President Jones received Wednesday morning, a note from Mrs. Phetzing, who lives near E. A. S., inviting our girls to come and gather lilacs and violets at her home. We were met at the gate by Mrs. Phetzing, who, in addition to a hearty welcome, showed us much courtesy every way. The flowers were numerous as well as beautiful, and being permitted to pluck them ad libitum, we came away with hats and dresses profusely decorated. We shall long remember with gratitude our thoughtful and generous hostess, and with pleasure the evening spent among her flowers.

The Teacher's License.

State Superintendent Wolfe, writing of the new school law, passed by the last general assembly, and approved April 20, 1891, says:

"This law takes the licensing of the 12,000 common school teachers from the county commissioner as an individual and intrusts it to a board of institute conductors and examiners, of which board the county commissioner is a member. These institute conductors and instructors are employed by a county institute board. This county institute board will consist of the county commissioner and two persons appointed by the county court."

"It takes the \$40,000 biennial examination fees heretofore paid by the teachers to the county commissioners and turns it into an institute fund to employ competent institute conductors and examiners (including the county commissioner, if competent). In addition to the \$1.50 heretofore paid by the teacher for examination, the sum of \$1.50 is paid by him; but this entitles him to a month's instruction in a good institute, and to a certificate."

"Under the old law a teacher could secure a certificate in the common branches for one year only and in one county. Under this law a certificate in the common branches can be secured valid for three years in any county in the state, thus tending to make teaching more of a profession."

EXAMINATIONS.

"Instead of requiring teachers to be examined in all the 'ologies,' as heretofore, this law confines the examination for the three grades of certificates to the common branches. All certificates now in existence are valid until they expire. Teachers are not obliged to attend the institutes, but are encouraged to do so, especially if inexperienced or incompetent. But teachers are obliged to take their examination from this unbiased competent board of examiners, unless prevented from doing so by good and sufficient reasons, in which case the county commissioner grants an examination and forwards the manuscripts to the conductor of the last institute for examination."

CALIFORNIA EXCURSIONS.

A trip west in a Pullman Tourist Sleeper is one of the advantages offered travelers by the Great Rock Island Route. Every Wednesday this car leaves Chicago at 6:00 p. m., and runs through on Fast Limited trains via Kansas City to Denver, Pueblo, Leadville, Salt Lake, Ogden to San Francisco. For Montana and Northwestern Pacific points Tourist Car from Ogden to Helena, Butte City, and via Sacramento to Portland and Puget Sound points. Families and tourists should buy second-class tickets, save money thereby, and go in this car at the same speed first-class passengers do. Address A. H. Moffet, 549 Main St., Kansas City, and be booked in the car from that point any Thursday this year.

J. N. SEBASTIAN, Gen'l Fkt. and Pass. Agt., C. R. I. & P. Ry.

The Denver Delegation.

Governor Francis has appointed thirty-four delegates to represent Missouri in the Trans-Mississippi congress, which convenes at Denver, Col., May 19, 1891. Among the prominent names are T. T. Crittenden, Kansas City; A. P. Morehouse, Maryville; Samuel P. Sparks, Warrensburg; W. F. Tuttle, Dresden; W. J. Stone, Nevada; Nat C. Dryden, Mexico; Walter Young, St. Joseph; Samuel M. Kennard, St. Louis; M. L. Clardy, Delassus; Champ Clark, Bowling Green; D. H. Armstrong, St. Louis.

Under the call Lafayette county is entitled to one delegate and Lexington one. The county court should appoint the former, the mayor of Lexington the latter.

An Epitaph.

The following would be suitable to adorn the grave stone of some Lexington boy:

"Here lies Johnny Bevin, He never sighs or frets; He lived until eleven—Cigarettes."

The Colonel's Little Vote.

To the Editor of the Republic.

LEXINGTON, Mo., April 29.—Dear Sir: I beg to hand you enclosed ballot for Rev. Dr. John Mathews, of St. Louis, with the hope that he will win. Yours truly, JOHN A. JONES.

The Weather Has Settled

and now is the time to

COMMENCE PAINTING

and fixing up for Spring. I would like to inform the

PEOPLE OF LEXINGTON

and Lafayette county that I bought last winter, when paints and oils were comparatively cheap, a large lot of the following:

Oils (Boiled or Raw)

Lead (Guaranteed Strictly Pure)

Colors (Dry and in Oil)

Varnishes (All Guaranteed)

Brushes (In Endless Variety)

Carriage Paints (In Any Quantity)

Gold Paints (Ready Mixed for Ornamental work)

Mixed Paints (From 1/2 Pint up)

And in fact everything in the paint line, and am going to sell them cheaper than the same goods can be bought for anywhere else in this county, or even Kansas City. If you are going to do any painting, it will cost you nothing to get my prices, and I will save you money on either large or small lots.

LEROY FARMER.

HIGGINSVILLE.

HIGGINSVILLE.

J. W. HARRISON'S ONE-PRICE CLOSE PRICE CASH HOUSE

I HAVE opened up, one door south of Land & Field's Drug Store, one of the nicest and most complete lines of Goods ever brought to this town, consisting of

Dry Goods,

DRESS GOODS, NOTIONS,

Children's, Boys' and Men's Clothing,

FURNISHING GOODS,

Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, Trunks and Valises.

Having taken an opportunity of purchasing my stock at a time when goods were at the lowest point that they have been this season, I am prepared to give purchasers the advantage of my BED-ROCK PURCHASE by selling at

Extremely Low Prices!

All are invited to call and examine my stock before purchasing elsewhere, as I will take pleasure in showing my stock, and can save you money in your purchase over any town in the county.

Yours, respectfully,

J. W. HARRISON, Higginsville, Mo.

THE LIGHTEST WEIGHT PRACTICAL BINDER EVER MADE!



MINNEAPOLIS STEEL BINDER

Small and Compact in Size, Low in Elevators,

HANDSOME IN APPEARANCE AND FINISH.

Yet having all the Capacity for hard work and all the Durability and

Reliability of any of the

World Famous Minneapolis Binders and Mowers.

It has a wheel 40 inches high and 9 inches wide. It is made

of Steel throughout.

BEST BINDING TWINE AT LOWEST PRICES.

apr2516

J. B. HOOK, AGENT.

It Doesn't Suit as Well, Though.

The Lexington colleges clubbed together and sent off to Columbia to have their catalogues printed. Now all the local

papers are giving them more free advertising than they have received within the last five years.—Higginsville Advance.

Dangler Gasoline Stoves. Senden's.

Wanted.

Wanted a teacher to teach in District 3, 49, 26; term seven months, certificate must be first grade. Applications with certificate received up to June 1st.

Dose by order of the board.

D. A. STALEY, District Clerk, Mayview, Mo. Box 63, Cortland Spring Wagons. Senden's.